

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00446 231220Z
ACTION NODS-00

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TAGS: PFOR, BC, US
SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT KHAMA TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: STATE 017349

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT KHAMA TO PRESIDENT CARTER DATED FEBRUARY 18, A COPY OF WHICH WAS RECEIVED IN TODAY'S MAIL. A COVERING TRANSMITTAL SLIP SAYS QTE THE LETTER WILL BE FORWARDED BY OUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON UNQTE.

2. TEXT READS AS FOLLOWS: QTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,
QTE I WISH TO BEGIN BY THANKING YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 26, 1977 BY WHICH YOU EXTEND TO US IN BOTSWANA, AS WELL AS TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, AMERICA'S HAND OF FRIENDSHIP,

COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY. IT PLEASES US VERY MUCH INDEED TO KNOW THAT AMERICA UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH US AS WE SEEK WAYS AND MEANS OF BRINGING ABOUT PEACEFUL CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

QTE IT IS OUR FIRM BELIEF, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT AMERICA HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE AFFAIRS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. NO COUNTRY AT THIS POINT IN TIME IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND CAN AFFORD TO CLAIM IMMUNITY TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. HAVING RECOGNIZED THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR
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WORLD IT SEEMS LOGICAL THAT WE SHOULD ALSO RECOGNIZE OUR COMMUNITY OF INTEREST. IT IS GRATIFYING, THEREFORE, TO KNOW THAT YOUR ADMINISTRATION IS DETERMINED TO CARRY ON THE EFFORTS ALREADY BEGUN TO BRING ABOUT PEACE AND JUSTICE IN OUR REGION.

QTE PEACE AND JUSTICE IS ALL WE WANT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT WE ARE PAINFULLY AWARE THAT THERE CAN BE NO PEACE AND JUSTICE WHERE

THERE IS NO HUMAN FREEDOM, DIGNITY AND EQUALITY. WHAT WE SEEK HERE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS NOT, AS IT IS SO OFTEN ALLEGED, THE DESTRUCTION OF ONE RACE SO THAT ANOTHER RACE MAY BE FREE. WE HAVE LONG RECOGNIZED AND INDEED ACCEPTED THE RACIAL DIVERSITY OF OUR CONTINENT AND THE IMPERATIVE NEED FOR ALL ITS PEOPLE TO APPRECIATE THEIR COMMON DESTINY. WHAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, IS THE DANGEROUS PHILOSOPHY OF WHITE SUPREMACY. THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING ALL THESE YEARS AND WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT IN THE FUTURE.

QTE I NEED NOT TELL YOU HOW APPRECIATIVE WE ARE OF AMERICA'S CONTINUING INTEREST IN THE FUTURE OF OUR SUB-CONTINENT. THOSE OF US WHO KNOW THE AMOUNT OF INFLUENCE AMERICA IS CAPABLE OF EXERTING IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND BY EXTENSION, IN RHODESIA HAVE NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT ALL AMERICA NEEDS IS THE WILL TO MAKE ITS POWER FELT IN THESE MINORITY RULED COUNTRIES. FOR IT IS CLEAR THAT WITHOUT THE PRESSURES OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AND WITHOUT WESTERN SUPPORT MR. VORSTER WOULD HAVE FOUND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN MR. SMITH IN HIS INTRANSIGENCE. THESE ARE THE FACTS, MR. PRESIDENT, AND I DARE SAY THE SOONER WE APPRECIATE THEM AND ACT ACCORDINGLY THE BETTER FOR ALL OF US.

QTE WHAT WE FEAR MOST IS THE ESCALATION OF WAR IN RHODESIA. AS I AM SURE YOU ARE AWARE, MY COUNTRY WILL INEVITABLY BECOME THE MOST DEFENSELESS VICTIM OF ANY SPILL-OVER OF VIOLENCE IF THE DRIFT TOWARDS A FULL-SCALE WAR IN RHODESIA IS NOT ARRESTED AS QUICKLY AS IT SHOULD. WE ARE ALREADY FACING THE MOST SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR SECURITY FROM THE REBEL COLONY. OUR RECENT APPEAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IS AN INVOLUNTARY TESTIMONY TO THIS THREAT. NOT ONLY ARE WE BURDENED WITH AN INTERMINABLE FLOW OF REFUGEES INTO OUR COUNTRY BUT WE ARE ALSO SUBJECTED TO ALL SORTS OF ACTS OF TERROR BY AGENTS OF THE MINORITY REGIME IN RHODESIA. CLEARLY, THE SMITH REGIME HAS LAUNCHED ITSELF ON THE WAR PATH AND IS DETERMINED TO PLUNGE THE WHOLE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA INTO A RACIAL CONFLAGRATION.

QTE THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME LEFT, MR. PRESIDENT. WE IN BOTSWANA ARE FAR FROM BEING DAUNTED BY THE FAILURE OF GENEVA. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED PEACEFULLY IF AMERICA AND THE WESTERN WORLD AS A WHOLE CAN BRING THEMSELVES, AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, TO THE REALIZATION THAT THERE IS LITTLE TIME TO WASTE.

QTE I HAVE WRITTEN AT LENGTH BECAUSE I FEEL IT IS NECESSARY THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHERE WE STAND ON THESE ISSUES. I DO SINCERELY HOPE THAT WE WILL ALL COOPERATE IN CREATING CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN THIS PART OF OUR CONTINENT.

QTE YOURS SINCERELY, SERETSE M. KHAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA UNQTE.

NORLAND

NOTE BY OC/T: NODIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. STEINER, S/S-O.

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